

## Message Text

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53

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 IO-10 ACDA-05 /071 W

----- 068802

R 061133Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2529

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0025

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR PFOR ET SO

SUBJECT: SIAD ON SOMALI-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS

1. PRESIDENT SIAD STATED JAN. 6 IN RESPONSE MY QUESTION AS TO WHETHER HE FELT IT WOULD BE EASIER TO DEAL WITH A "SOCIALIST" ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT THAT ETHIOPIANS ARE "DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND". SOMALIA'S POSITION ON THE TERRITORIAL DISPUTE WAS CLEAR, AS WAS ITS POLICY OF NON-INTERVENTION IN ETHIOPIAN AFFAIRS, SOMALIA IS LETTING ETHIOPIA WORK OUT ITS OWN PROBLEMS, AND HAS NO RPT NO INTENTION OF TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THEM. ETHIOPIANS, HOWEVER, SAY ONE THING AND DO ANOTHER AND TAKE BACK THEIR EARLIER WORDS. HE HAD TOLD EMPEROR AT OAU SUMMIT LAST JUNE THAT OGADEN WAS OF NO RPT N NO INTRINSIC VALUE AND WOULD SIMPLY REPRESENT DRAIN OF MONEY AND BLOOD TO ETHIOPIA. SIAD STILL FELT THAT WAY BUT HE HAD NOT RPT NOT BEEN ABLE TO MAKE ANY PROGRESS WITH ETHIOPIANS OVER PAST 5 YEARS.

2. SIAD THEN CLAIMED THAT ETHIOPIAN FORCES IN OGADEN WERE FIRING ON SOMALI WATER TRUCKS WHICH CROSS DE FACTO BORDER TO BRING WATER TO DESTITUTE NOMADS. SEVERAL  
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PEOPLE HAD BEEN KILLED AND SEVERAL TRUCKS CONFISCATED.

GSDR HAD PROPOSED TO ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT THAT THEY FORM JOINT TEAMS TO ASSIST NOMADS IN BORDER AREAS BUT HAD HAD NO RPEAT NO RESPONSE.

3. COMMENT: WE DO NOT RPT NOT KNOW REAL FACTS. SOMALIS MAY BE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF DROUGHT SITUATION TO ASSERT THEIR INTEREST IN OGADEN, BUT GSDR IS MAKING ALL OUT EFFORT TO ASSPLT THOSE SUFFERING FROM DROUGHT.

4. IF IT IS TRUE THAT GSDR HAS PROPOSED JOINT ACTION, IT WOULD SEEM TB US THAT THIS WOULD BE WORTH ENCOURAGING ON HUMANITARIAN AND EVEN POLITICAL GROUNDS. WE WILL SEE IF WE CAN FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS HERE, BUT IT IS DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN RELIABLE INFORMATION. WE WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE HEARING WHATEVER EMBASSY ADDIS CAN LEARN. IF IN FACT SOMALIS HAVE PROPOSED JOINT ACTION, PERHAPS ETHIOPIANS COULD BE ENCOURAGED AT LEAST TO DISCUSS MATTERS WITH SOMALI AUTHORITIES.

KIRK

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